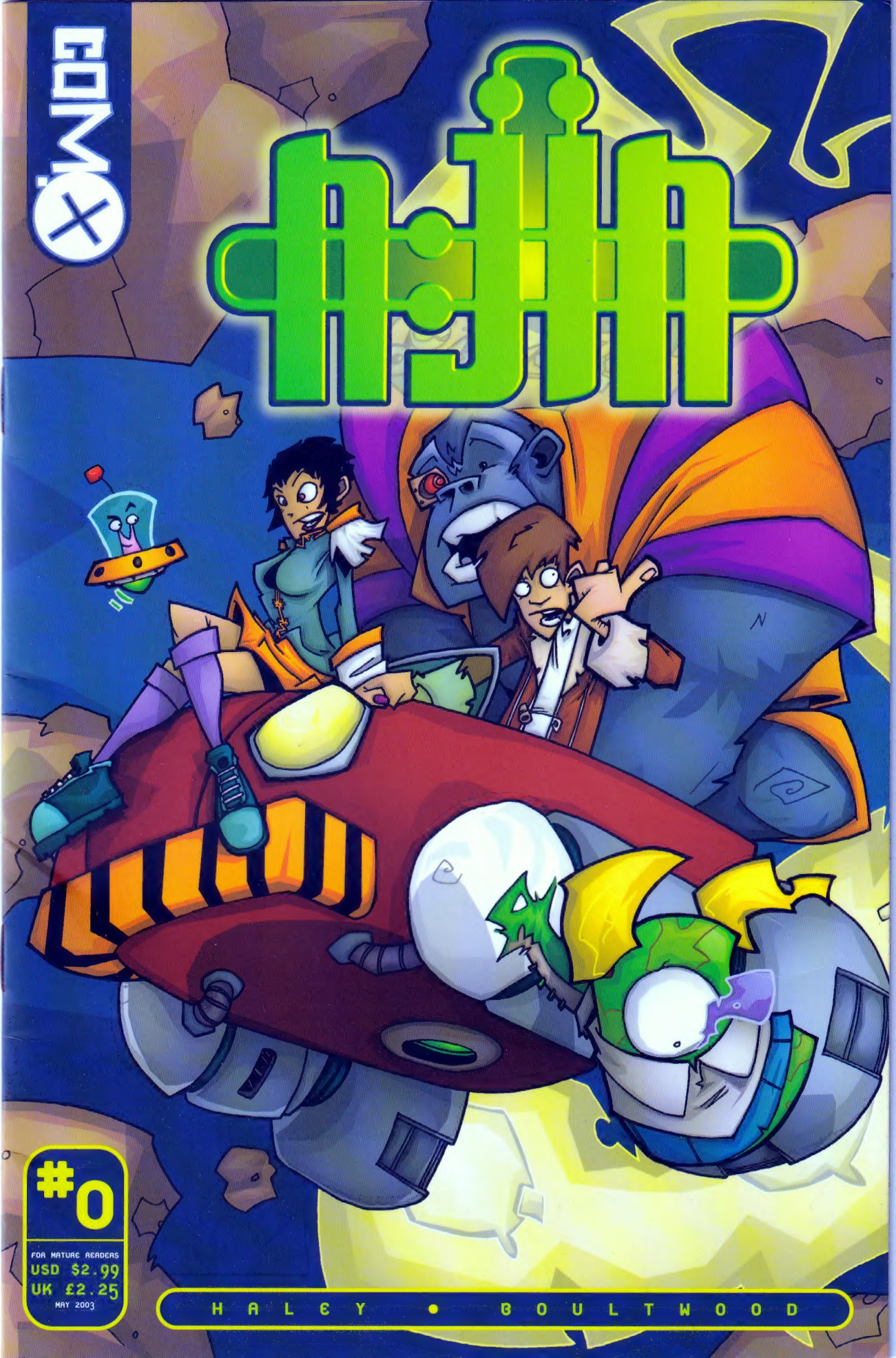
COMIX
#0
FOR MATURE READERS
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MAY 2003
HALEY • BOULTWOOD

Greetings bold explorers of the cosmos!

Welcome to the future, the future of 10,915AD. The future of **NJIN**. The **NJIN** are mankind's signature achievement, its lasting legacy to a universe rich and soupy with lifeforms questing for the answer to the greatest questions of all!

NO.
Not why do British pubs shut so ridiculously early but: "Why are we here?" and "What are we for?" These questions have dogged all sentient species since the dawn of time, with the exception of Brits. And, of course, the whooping-long worm folk of Antatarantian V, who are primarily concerned with eating pebbles and are not unduly perturbed by such things.

The **NJIN** are men like you or I, yet not. For THEY are MORE! They, imbued with the almost magical power of self-improving nanotechnology, are IMMORTAL! For them no imponderable is too great to ponder upon, for they have all eternity with which to do pondering, if you see what I mean. An eternity of LIFE for the children of Adam. Free of disease, physical imperfection, pain and suffering. Death is dead! Long live life!

Only, it didn't quite work out. The **NJIN** were a poison legacy. Besides questing for the unknown, mankind's other eternal constant is If you've got it, then I want it too. With men living for centuries, it was inevitable that every fascistic, self-important CRACKPOT would eventually get time to exercise his dreams of universal domination. It doesn't matter that most people are nice. These men were nastier, bringing **NJIN-Man** into violent conflict with the rest of the universe, a conflict they lost.

Now man is restricted to a large nature reserve near Betelgeuse, his last corrupt society stripped of its technological powers and fuddled by ancient mind-control devices. As for the **NJIN**, there are precious few left. They roam a galaxy ruined and blighted by a millennium-long war, lonely and searching for a good night out.
RICK BALDWIN is one such **NJIN**....

Sithee,

Guy Haley.

THE STORIES :

PINT O' BEST : Desperate for alcohol powerful enough to overwhelm his nanetically enhanced liver, Rick is determined to use the ancient and damaged trans-dimensional drive of his new ship, The Reckless Hope 1.2, to create a potent pint of bitter*.
NB : This story takes place after the six issue miniseries....
*Dark, English beer.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES : In this prequel to the **NJIN** miniseries, **RICK BALDWIN** is returning from a prolonged trip to a nearby galaxy. Rick is as yet unaware what has happened to the Milky Way. His only concern is finding his last memory dump, an external, interdimensional, device necessary for the NJIN to store their enormous experience, without which they will gradually forget who they are....

A NOTE ON YORKSHIRE : Rick speaks a form of English known as YORKSHIRE. This is naturally far superior to other forms of English, being straight to the point, having none of that shilly-shallying about southerners and foreigners so love. Some may say it is unlovely and rude, I say to them "Bugger off". However, this may lead to some confusion, For starters, "Tha" and "Thee" are forms of you, while "Nesh" means useless or stupid. Likewise Yorkshire folk, wanting to do away with unnecessary words where possible, do not use the definite article "the" all that often.
*If you've read the Brontes you'll get it. If not, persevere and eventually you will be rewarded with an understanding of England's MOST SUBLIME TONGUE!

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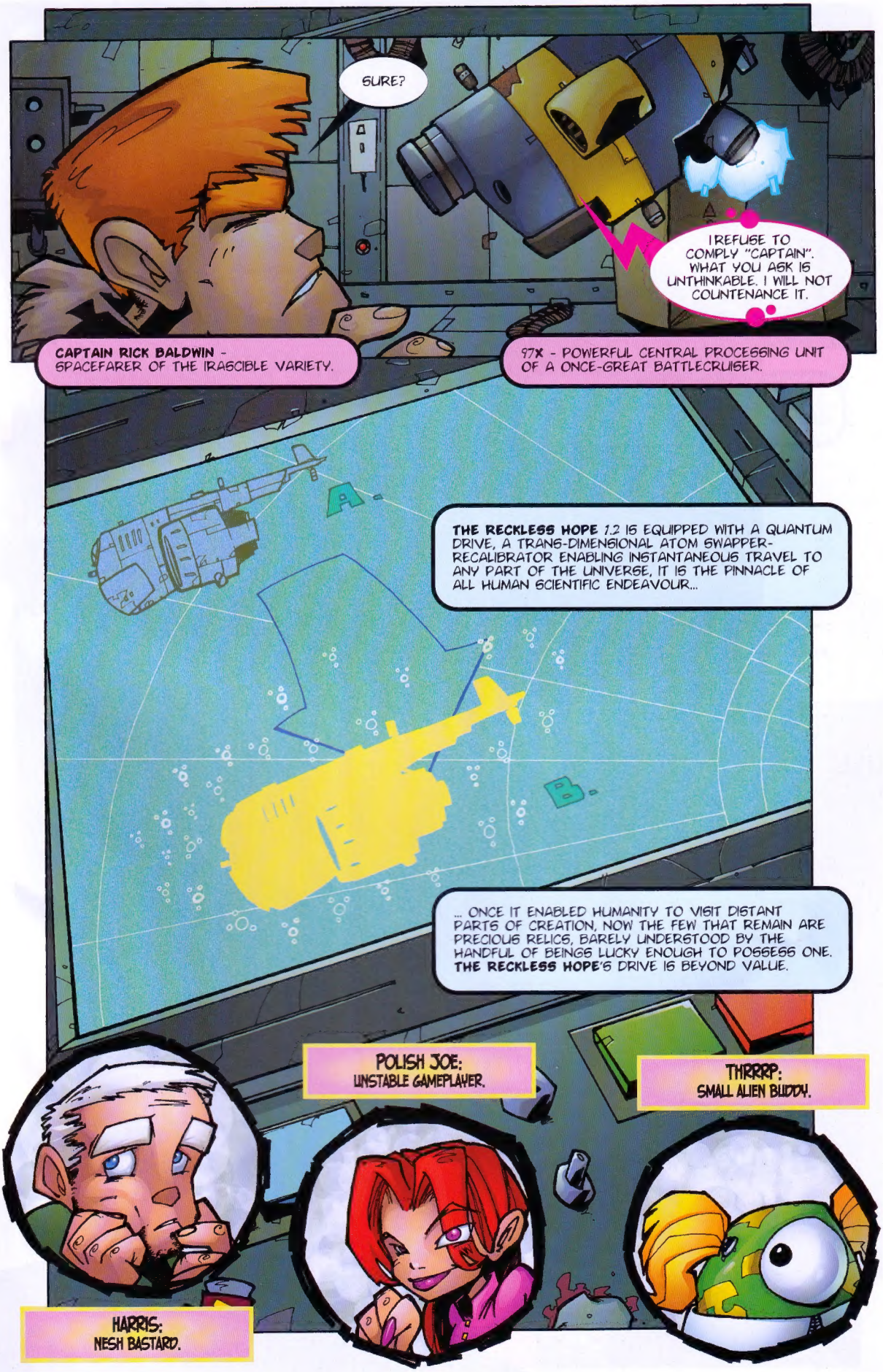
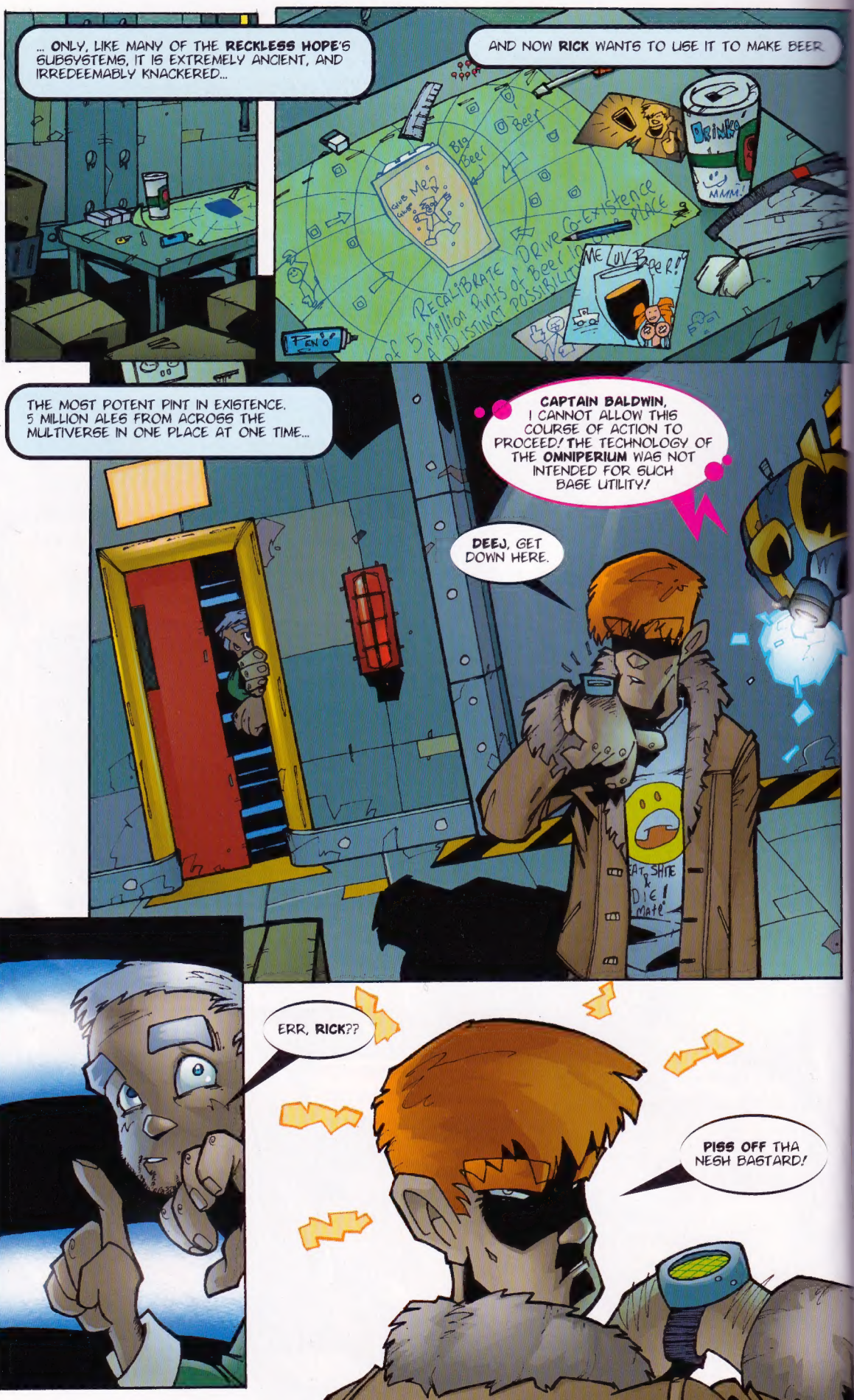
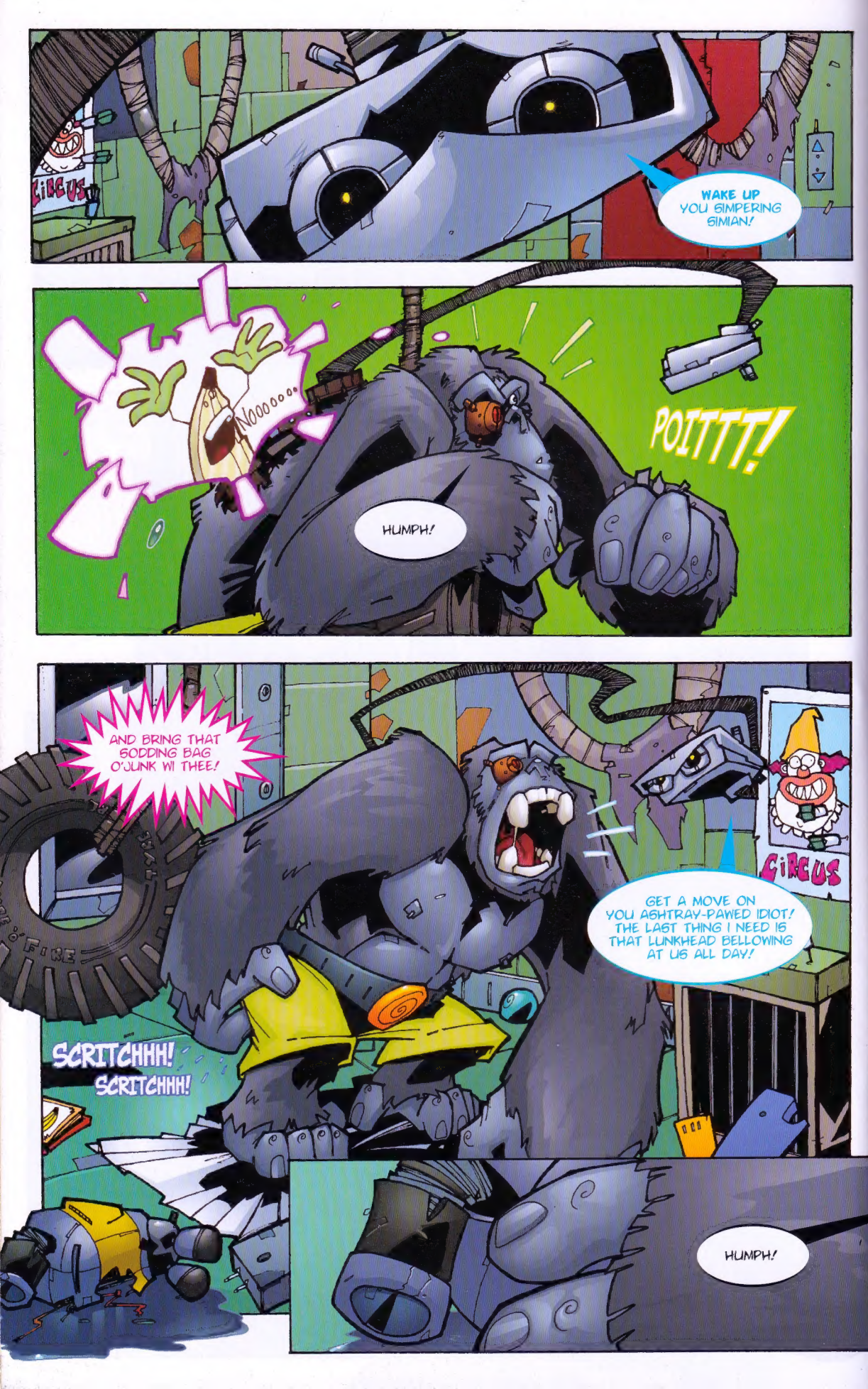
A QUIET NIGHT ABOARD **THE RECKLESS HOPE** 1.2 ...

FOR MOST ANYWAY ...
PINT O'BEST
I'M NOT TELLING YOU AGAIN! OPEN T'BLOODY DOOR THA SILICON BUGGER!
NEGATIVE. THE QUANTUM DEVICE IS NOT INTENDED FOR THE USE YOU PROPOSE.
QUANTUM CHAMBER : HIGH-RISK ZONE
RICK BALDWIN: IMMORTAL SPACEHERO.
ZILLION BIT: TOTALITY'S MOST POWERFUL SUPERCOMPUTER.
DG 1-7-38B: NANETICALLY ENHANCED SUPER-APE.


SURE?
I REFUSE TO COMPLY "CAPTAIN". WHAT YOU ASK IS UNTHINKABLE. I WILL NOT COUNTENANCE IT.
CAPTAIN RICK BALDWIN - SPACEFARER OF THE IRASCIBLE VARIETY.
97X - POWERFUL CENTRAL PROCESSING UNIT OF A ONCE-GREAT BATTLECRUISER.
THE RECKLESS HOPE 1.2 IS EQUIPPED WITH A QUANTUM DRIVE, A TRANS-DIMENSIONAL ATOM SWAPPER-RECALIBRATOR ENABLING INSTANTANEOUS TRAVEL TO ANY PART OF THE UNIVERSE, IT IS THE PINNACLE OF ALL HUMAN SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR...
A
B
... ONCE IT ENABLED HUMANITY TO VISIT DISTANT PARTS OF CREATION, NOW THE FEW THAT REMAIN ARE PRECIOUS RELICS, BARELY UNDERSTOOD BY THE HANDFUL OF BEINGS LUCKY ENOUGH TO POSSESS ONE. THE RECKLESS HOPE'S DRIVE IS BEYOND VALUE.
POLISH JOE: UNSTABLE GAMEPLAYER.
THRRRP: SMALL ALIEN BUDDY.
HARRIS: NESH BASTARD.


... ONLY, LIKE MANY OF THE RECKLESS HOPE'S SUBSYSTEMS, IT IS EXTREMELY ANCIENT, AND IRREDEEMABLY KNACKERED...
AND NOW RICK WANTS TO USE IT TO MAKE BEER
Big Beer
Beer
Drink
MMM!
ME LUV BEER!
RECALIBRATE DRIVE CO-EXISTENCE PLACE
THE MOST POTENT PINT IN EXISTENCE. 5 MILLION ALES FROM ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE IN ONE PLACE AT ONE TIME...
CAPTAIN BALDWIN, I CANNOT ALLOW THIS COURSE OF ACTION TO PROCEED! THE TECHNOLOGY OF THE OMNIPERIUM WAS NOT INTENDED FOR SUCH BASE UTILITY!
DEEJ, GET DOWN HERE.
EAT SHITE & DIE! mate
ERR, RICK??
PISS OFF THA NESH BASTARD!

WHAT'S EATING YOU?
HMMPH. YOU'D BE PISSED OFF IF YOU HADN'T HAD A DRINK FOR **TEN THOUSAND** YEARS.
YOU'RE **ALWAYS** PISSED OFF.
'APPEN. NOW WHERE IS THAT BLOODY **MONKEY**!?
MMM. **NANAS**.
...WHERE IS THAT BLOODY **MONKEY**?


CIRCUS
WAKE UP YOU SIMPERING SIMIAN!
NOOOOOO..
POITTT!
HUMPH!
AND BRING THAT SODDING BAG O'JUNK WI THEE!
CIRCUS
GET A MOVE ON YOU ASHTRAY-PAWED IDIOT! THE LAST THING I NEED IS THAT LUNKHEAD BELLOWING AT US ALL DAY!
SCRITCHHH!
SCRITCHHH!
HUMPH!

ARRIGHT THERE, THA BIG MONKEY...
SHOW 97 HERE WHAT THA'S GOT **DEEJ**.
THIS 'ERE'S 94**C**. ME **LAST** SHIP'S COMPUTER.
SKKKKWWEEEEEEK!
+++HMMMM...+++
+++I BEGIN TO SEE YOUR POINT...+++
WHAT IS THAT FOOL UP TO?
DON'T ASK ME!
THANK YOU!
+++HE IS ATTEMPTING TO BRING MULTIPLE INTOXICANTS INTO ONE SPACE-TIME NEXUS+++.
HMPF! **CRETIN**.
WWWWWWWEEEEEEEEEEE

vweeeeeeeeeeee....
M!!
OH MY GOD! RICK! HE'S DEAD!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS...
... ONLY HIS HEAD'S COME OFF.
BOLLOCKS!
TOO DAMN YEASTY!
SHHHLURP!

FIN...

the construction of the figure.
the monkey wipes his own ass...

N-JIN SKETCH PAGES...

DRAMATIS PERSONAE :

1 **RICK BALDWIN** : Rick is an irascible immortal from YORKSHIRE*, and one of the last remaining **NJIN**. He's probably the most ill-tempered.
*YORKSHIRE is england's largest county, and home of its finest people.

2 **DG-1-38B** : DG is the only gorilla left in the universe and the first primate test subject for ntech. How he has survived for so long with only the word "nana" in his vocabulary is anyone's guess.

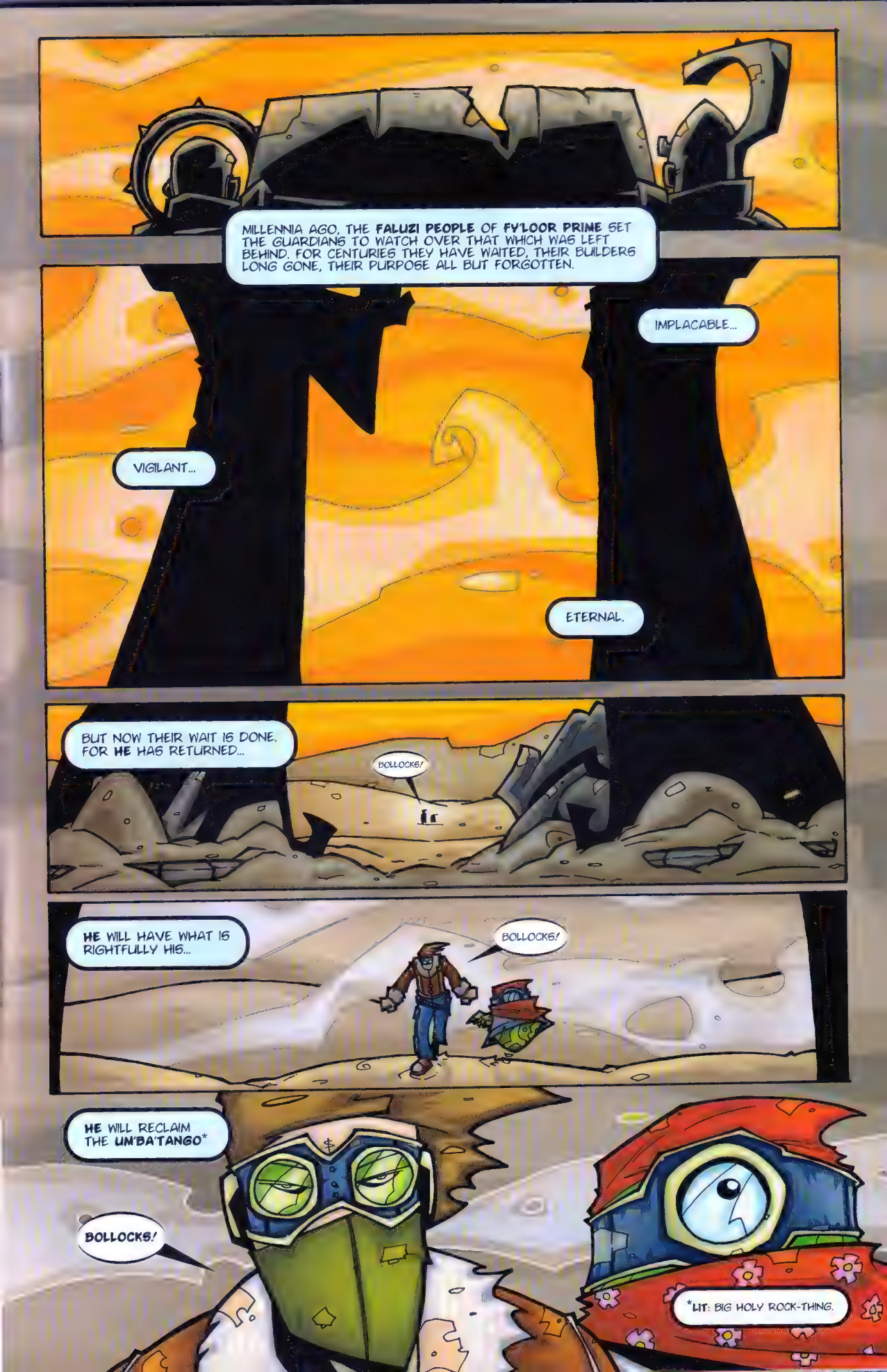
3 **ZILLION BIT** : An omnidimensional, quantum-computer and second most intelligent being in existence. Unfortunately for Bit, he has become irretrievably melded into DG's back in circumstances he is frankly too embarrassed to discuss.

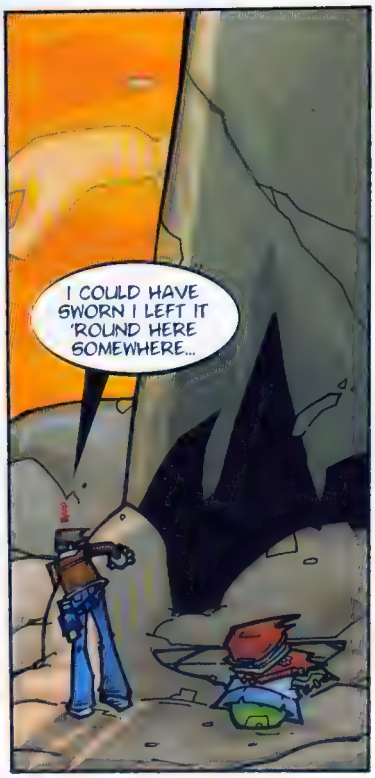
4 **POLISH JO[E]?** : **NJIN** whose ntech controlling heartstone has been slightly scrambled. He/she cannot maintain any one body form for long, and has an alarming tendency to turn into a fish.

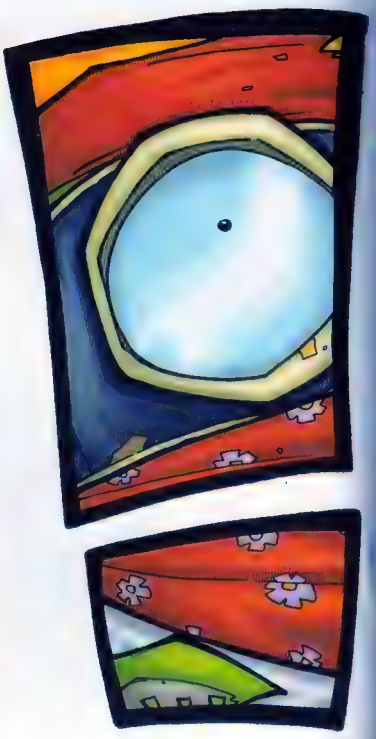
5 **THRARP** : A small alien from the Andromeda galaxy, Thrrrp is obsessed with fifties' human culture. Obsessed in many, many unhealthy ways. He communicates via pheromones which only Rick, who has altered his nose, can understand.

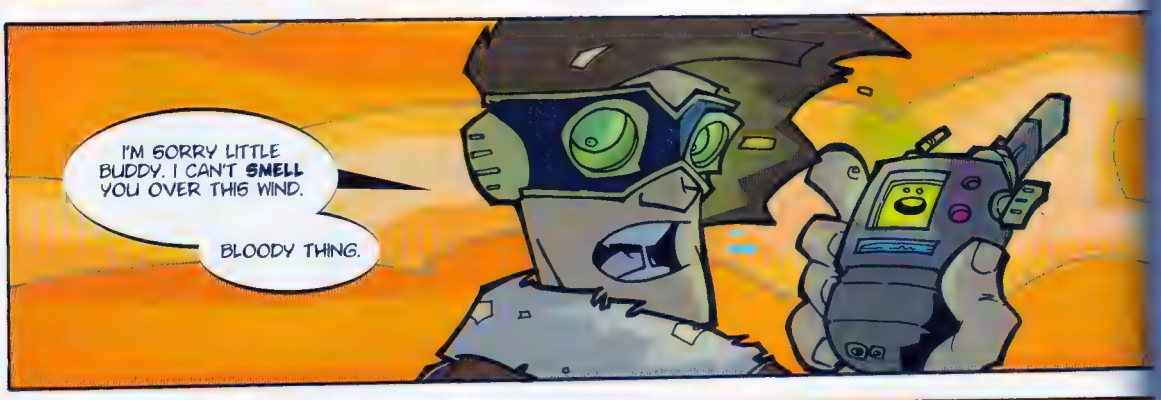
6 **HARRIS** : Resurrected early Nanoman (another name for the **NJIN**), Harris has no idea where he is or why. His ntech is unevolved compared to that of his fellows, placing him at a life-threatening disadvantage.

will work for beer.
PUTT! PUTT!
I loike Begur.
SQUAK!
early production picture of rick unfortunately, had to reduce the number of fingers, and the stick had to go. the bague remains

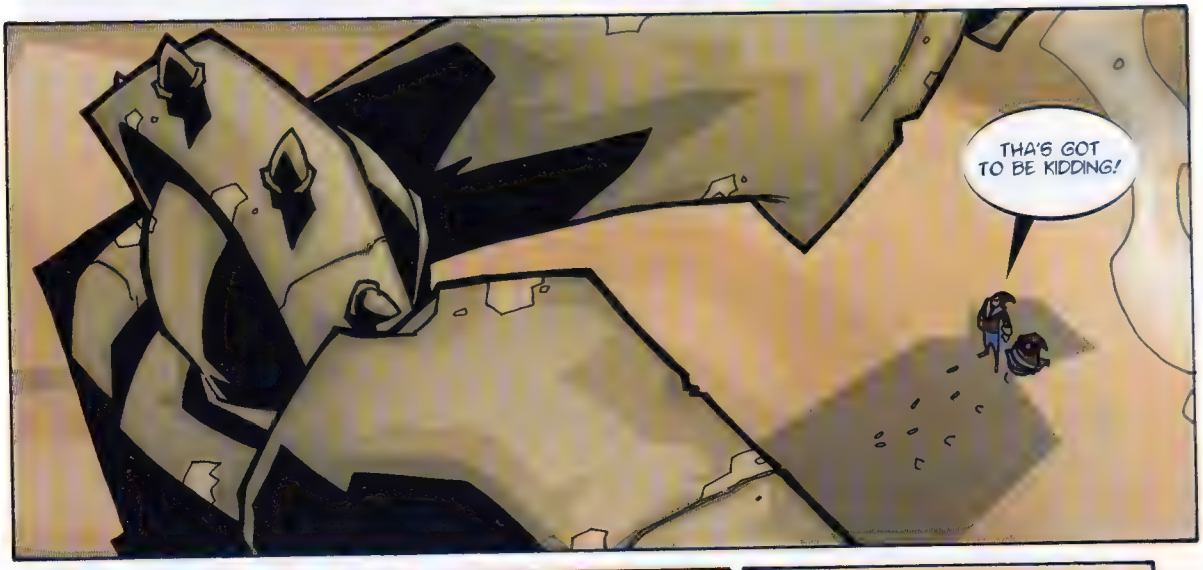

MILLENNIA AGO, THE **FALUZI PEOPLE** OF **FY'LOOR PRIME** SET THE GUARDIANS TO WATCH OVER THAT WHICH WAS LEFT BEHIND. FOR CENTURIES THEY HAVE WAITED, THEIR BUILDERS LONG GONE, THEIR PURPOSE ALL BUT FORGOTTEN.
IMPLACABLE...
VIGILANT...
ETERNAL.
BUT NOW THEIR WAIT IS DONE. FOR **HE** HAS RETURNED...
BOLLOCKS!
HE WILL HAVE WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY HIS...
BOLLOCKS!
HE WILL RECLAIM THE **UM'BA'TANGO***
BOLLOCKS!
***LIT**: BIG HOLY ROCK-THING.

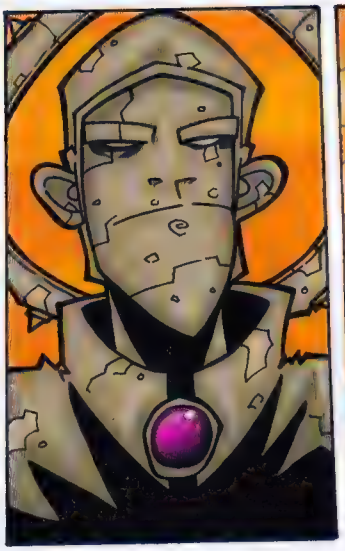






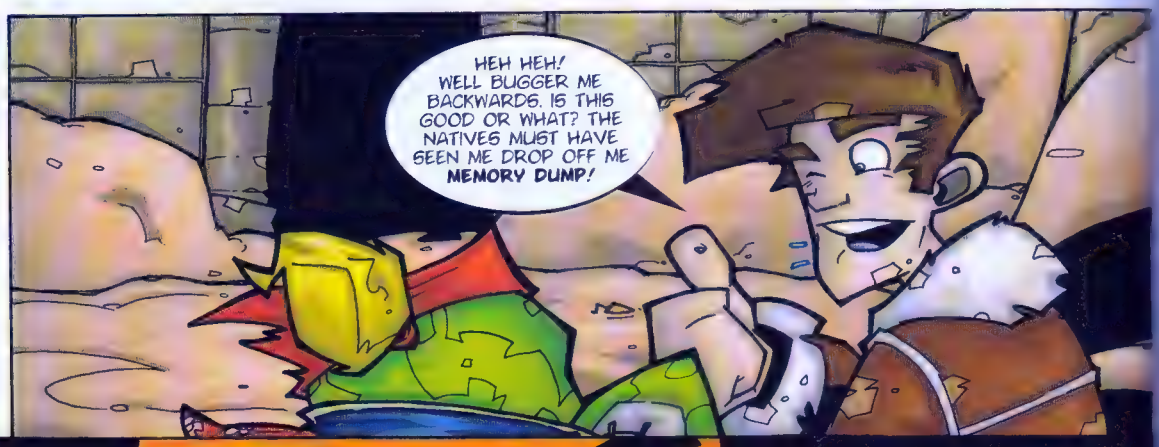
RICK BALDWIN:
IMMORTAL YORKSHIREMAN.

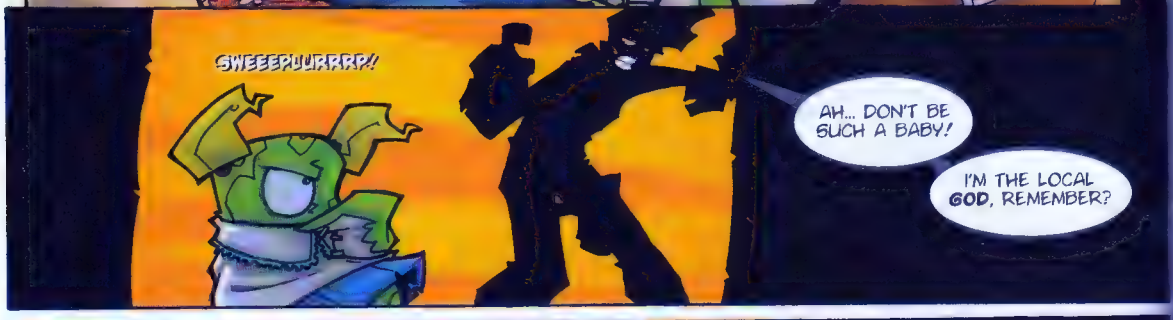




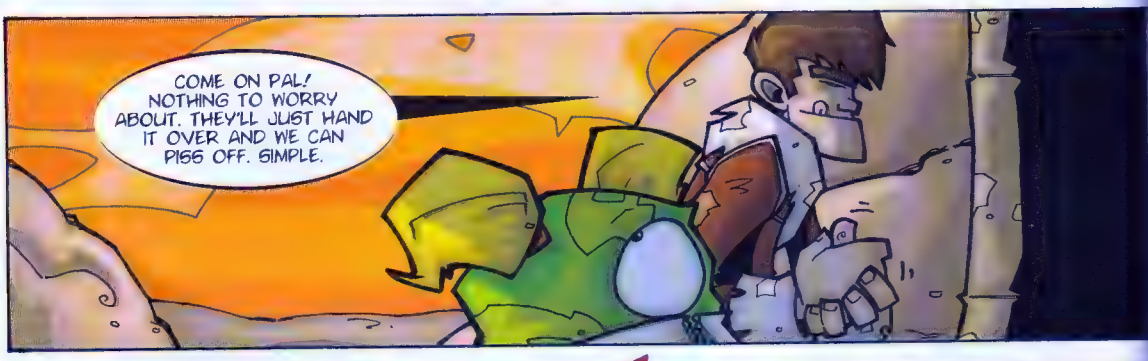
THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

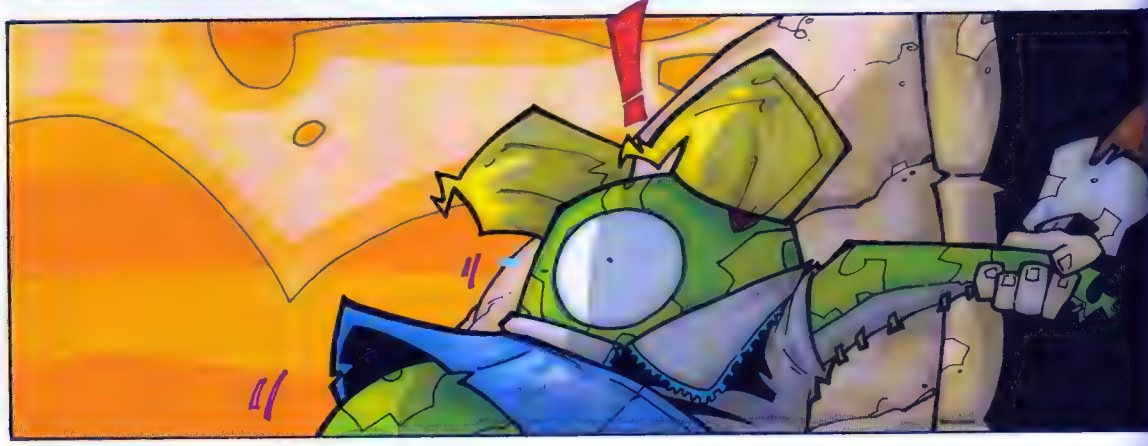
THRRRP:
SMALL ALIEN PERVERT.

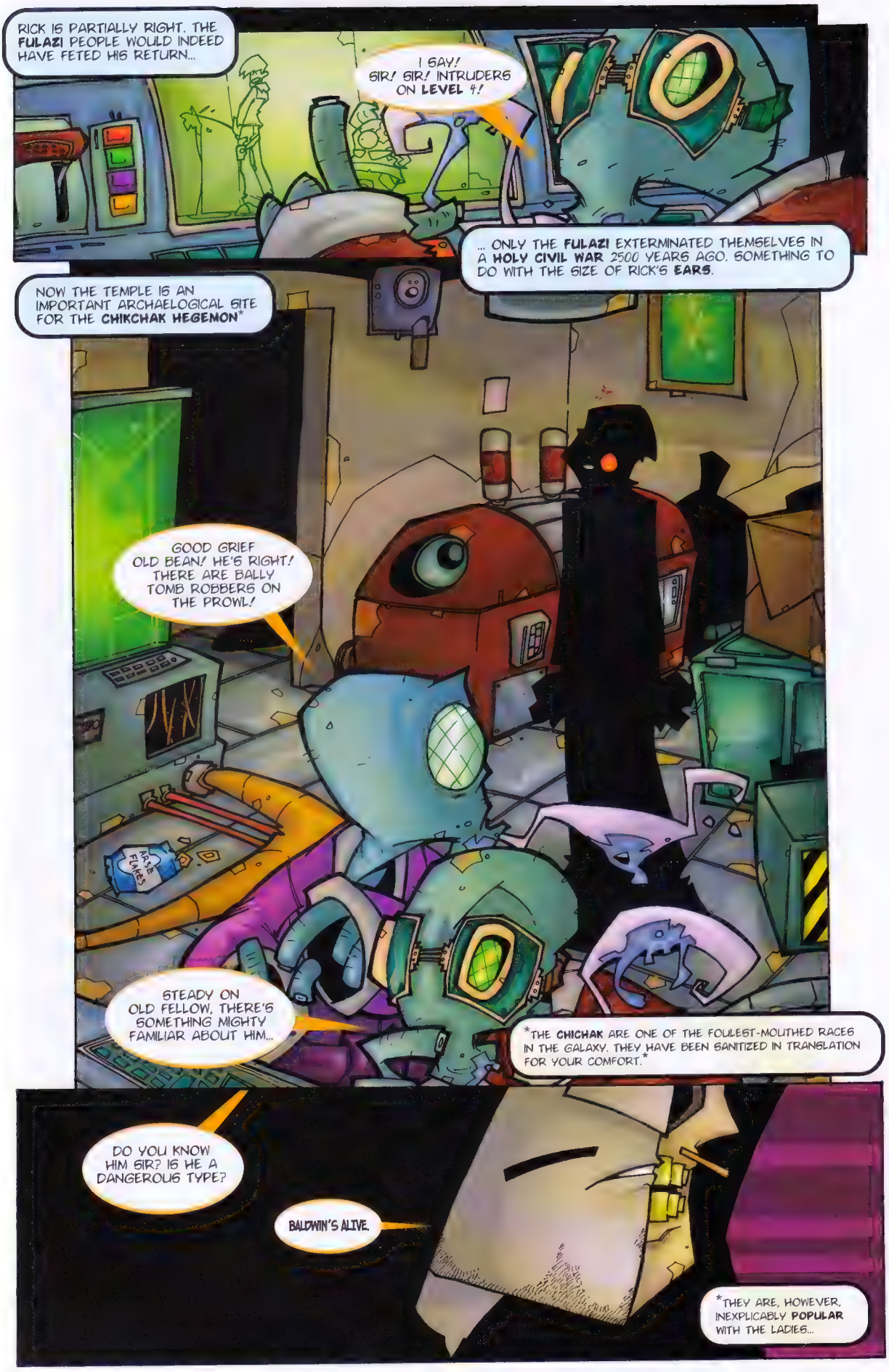

HEH HEH! WELL BUGGER ME BACKWARDS. IS THIS GOOD OR WHAT? THE NATIVES MUST HAVE SEEN ME DROP OFF ME **MEMORY DUMP!**


SWEEEPLURRRP!
AH... DON'T BE SUCH A BABY!
I'M THE LOCAL **GOD**, REMEMBER?

WHO KNOWS? MEBBE THEY'LL PUT SOME **DANCING GIRLS** ON FOR US! HEH HEH HEH...

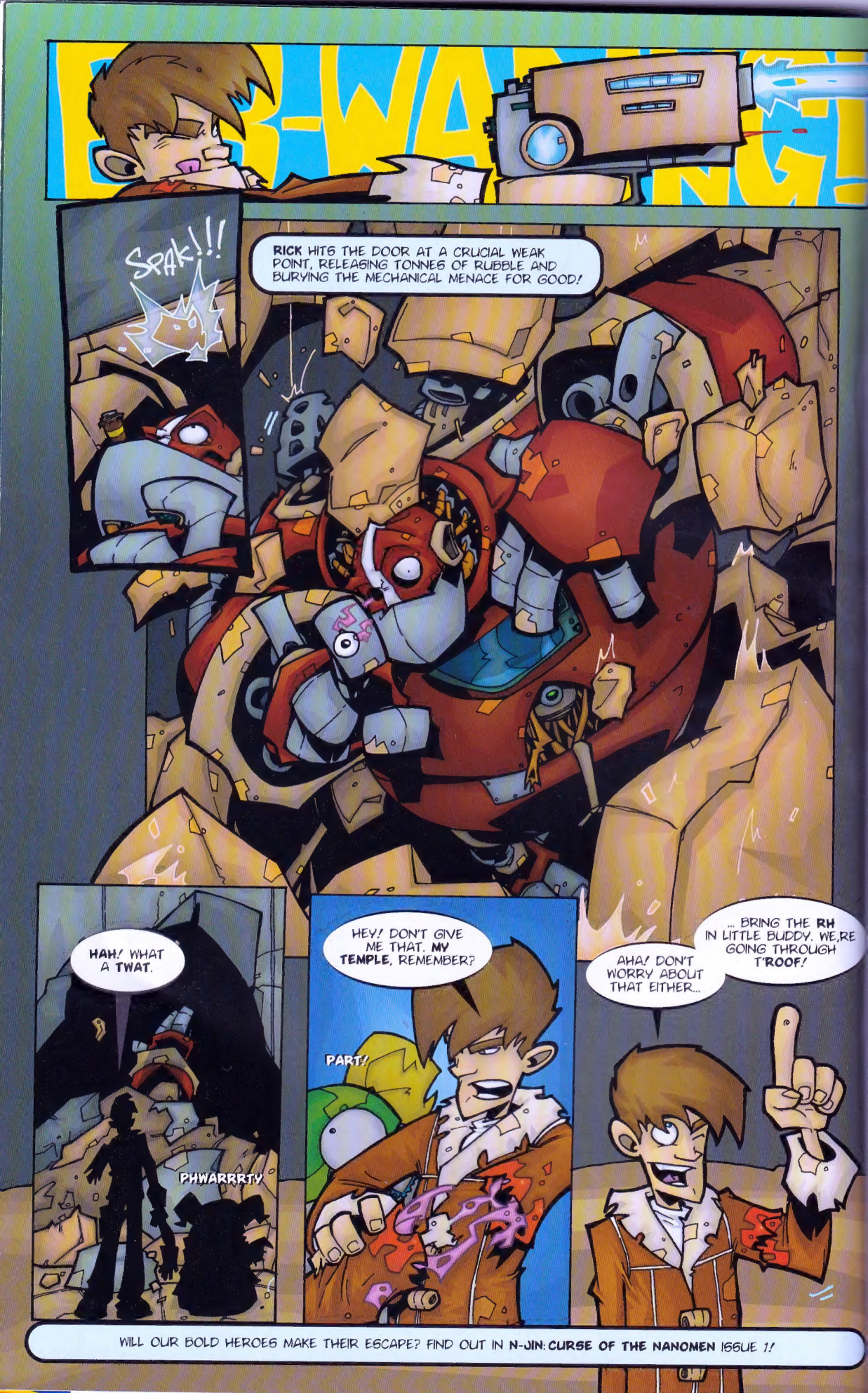

COME ON PAL! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. THEY'LL JUST HAND IT OVER AND WE CAN PISS OFF. SIMPLE.




RICK IS PARTIALLY RIGHT. THE **FULAZI** PEOPLE WOULD INDEED HAVE FETED HIS RETURN...
I SAY! SIR! SIR! INTRUDERS ON **LEVEL** 4!
... ONLY THE **FULAZI** EXTERMINATED THEMSELVES IN A **HOLY CIVIL WAR** 2500 YEARS AGO. SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE SIZE OF RICK'S **EARS**.
NOW THE TEMPLE IS AN IMPORTANT ARCHAELOGICAL SITE FOR THE **CHIKCHAK HEGEMON***
GOOD GRIEF OLD BEAN! HE'S RIGHT! THERE ARE BALLY TOMB ROBBERS ON THE PROWL!
STEADY ON OLD FELLOW, THERE'S SOMETHING MIGHTY FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM...
*THE **CHICHAK** ARE ONE OF THE FOULEST-MOUTHED RACES IN THE GALAXY. THEY HAVE BEEN SANITIZED IN TRANSLATION FOR YOUR COMFORT.*
DO YOU KNOW HIM SIR? IS HE A DANGEROUS TYPE?
BALDWIN'S ALIVE.
*THEY ARE, HOWEVER, INEXPLICABLY **POPULAR** WITH THE LADIES...

OF COURSE I KNOW THIS MAN! HE IS A NOTORIOUS THIEF.
DESPATCH WAR-ROBOT SPINEBACK TO BRING BACK HIS BODY!
MEANWHILE, RICK AND THRRRP HAVE REACHED THE HEART OF THE COMPLEX...
AHA! GRAND! THERE SHE IS! ME LAST MEMORY DUMP.
SEE PAL? I TOLD THEE IT WOULD BE NO TROUB...
...BELLLLL!

HALT! INTRUDER! YOU HAVE BREACHED AN IMPORTANT ARCHAELOGICAL SITE! HALT...
THAT'S NO DANCING GIRL!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME BALDWIN! I REJOICED WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE DEAD...
DONK!
... BUT NOT AS MUCH AS I SHALL WHEN I KILL YOU FOR THIS!
HEH. COOLFAT...
... SWIVEL!


B-WA NG!
SRAK!!!
RICK HITS THE DOOR AT A CRUCIAL WEAK POINT, RELEASING TONNES OF RUBBLE AND BURYING THE MECHANICAL MENACE FOR GOOD!
HAH! WHAT A TWAT.
PHWARRRTY
HEY! DON'T GIVE ME THAT. MY TEMPLE, REMEMBER?
PART!
AHA! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT EITHER...
... BRING THE RH IN LITTLE BUDDY. WE,RE GOING THROUGH T'ROOF!
WILL OUR BOLD HEROES MAKE THEIR ESCAPE? FIND OUT IN N-JIN: CURSE OF THE NANOMEN ISSUE 1!

POSTER ART BY: DANIEL BOULTWOOD

COMIX

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